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### **CDA Begins Using New Database to Issue Export Certificates**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture helps support many agriculture endeavors in our state. One important role played by the Plant Industry Division involves helping Colorado producers export plant products outside the United States. Called Export Certification, this program is a cooperative effort between USDA, State Agriculture Departments and the Countries receiving U.S. commodities.

Just as the U.S. and Colorado want to keep foreign or exotic pests and weeds outside of our borders, so do the countries that bring in commodities from the U.S. Export or Phytosanitary Certification is provided as a service to Colorado producers. It allows producers to expedite the entry of commodities into foreign countries, while assuring the receiving country that 'exotic' plant pests, diseases and weeds are not gaining entry along with the commodity.

For those that ship commodities to foreign countries, CDA will be using a brand new web-based tracking system that USDA has developed. The Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) System allows exporters to create and submit applications for certificates to export commodities online. Applications created in this fashion are automatically received by CDA and processed more efficiently. No more typing and faxing applications, PCIT allows exporters to view the progress of applications, print copies of applications and final certificates and even save templates of applications created to help expedite the process on all ends. The CDA has already begun implementing PCIT and will encourage exporters to fully begin using the system by September. As an incentive, the cost for Phytosanitary certificates issued using PCIT will be cheaper than those submitted and issued the old way. Specific details will be sent out to all exporters in the very near future.